24. (TWICE AMENDED) A method as defined in claim 21, further comprising the step of co-administering an immunosuppressive drug with said proteasome inhibitor.

Remarks

Applicants have read and considered the Communication dated April 10, 2001 stating that the previous amendment was not fully responsive. Claim 21 and 24 have now been amended.

Applicants have partially reverted to the previous language of the claims, to make it clear that what is claimed is a method of medical treatment.

The Examiner stated that the claims do not read on the elected invention because the method is "now directed to cell culture which differs from the method originally presented in the application in that the methods have different method steps and end points".

By reciting "administering", it is believed that the present amendment should clarify that the claimed subject matter is a method of medical treatment. It is not clear if the previous terms "without affecting resting cells" are considered by the Examiner as a different end point. Regardless, these terms have been cancelled from the present claims. Cancellation of these terms does not deprive the claims of any significant feature, since the express "reversal of an ongoing proliferation or activity of activated blood cells", indicates "how and when" to administer the inhibitor (e.g. the blood cells are already activated once the proteasome inhibitor is administered), and which cells or tissues will be selectively targeted (those activated as opposed to those non-activated or resting).

The fact that the proteasome inhibitor is defined as one capable of achieving an extra-cellular concentration equipotent to 6 to 20 μM of lactacystin should not be considered as a different end point. These terms have been added to comply with the Examiner's rejection appearing at point 4 of the previous Office Action (paper 9). Applicants have provided in the present claims a reference dose for a reference compound solely for the purpose of definition of a

quantity of a proteasome inhibitor to be administered. Any other proteasome inhibitor other than lactacystin could be used in so far as it is administered to a subject in a concentration capable of achieving the equivalent of 6 to 20 μM of lactacystin at the site of the action.

Applicants assert that this response fully addresses all issues raised in the Action. A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for reversing the ongoing proliferation or activity or both of activated blood cells [without affecting resting cells,] which comprises the step of administering [contacting said cell with] an amount of a proteasome inhibitor capable of achieving a concentration in the fluids surrounding the cells that is equipotent to a concentration of about 6 to 20 μM of lactacystin.

24. (TWICE AMENDED) A method as defined in claim 21, further comprising the step of co-administering [adding] an immunosuppressive drug with [to] said proteasome inhibitor.